

ISSMGE Foundation reports

The XVI Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was organized by the International Society of Soils Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and the Mexican Society of Geotechnical Engineering (SMIG), and was held at the Convention Centre of the Iberostar Hotel, in Cancun, Mexico between the 17th and 20th of November, 2019.

Before the conference starting day, 11 pre-conference technical lectures were conducted in different topics, as well as the networking events and welcome cocktail.

The conference began with the opening ceremony and the 9th Authur Casagrande Lecture presented by Gabriel Auvinet Guichard, at which a case study of the geotechnical engineering application in spatially variable soft soils in Mexico City was discussed. After word, the conference proceeded with 19 technical sessions with side range of geotechnical topics, which were distributed in three sessions periods during each of the conference three days.

In the middle of the first day, Dr. Charles Ng (President of the ISSMGE) conducted his lecture on the interplay between ecology and unsaturated soils. Also, the second and third day of the conference were opened up with discussion of the history and future of partnership between the industry and academia, presented by Mary Ellen and Juan Pailun (conference co-chairs).

In the beginning of each technical session, a related keynote lecture was presented followed by around 7 to 8 technical presentations presented by professors, graduate students and professional geo- practitioners from different parts of the world.

I was proud to have the opportunity to present part of my PhD research in the morning of the second day (November 19, 2018) answer some questions and get feedback from other colleagues and senior professors. The conference was ended in Wednesday evening by the closure ceremony and gala dinner.

Finally, I would like to express my great thanks and appreciations to the ISSMGE foundation for helping me to attend this famed and high-level conference.



During the 2nd day opening session



In front of the exhibition center

Imad Alainachi
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada

ISSMGE Foundation reports (Con't)

The 7th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (AYGE) and the 17th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ARC2019) were both organised and successfully hosted by the Geotechnical Division of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering under the auspices of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The AYGE started with a fun filled welcome function where young engineers had enough time to socialise prior to the conference. The one-day AYGE featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Graham Howell who was appointed the grandfather for the conference. His lecture touched on the lessons learnt from his 35 years of experience on key projects, and the importance of engineering as an integration of disciplines. About 50 technical papers were presented by young engineers from across 25 different countries which provided a good platform for young members to share research ideas together.

The ARC2019 started with welcome addresses from the Vice President for Africa, Etienne Marcelin Kana, and the President of ISSMGE Charles W.W. Ng. This was followed by the Franki Book Launch where every delegate received a complimentary copy. Four selected courses were then held namely Unsaturated Soils, Design of Column Supported Embankments, TC307 Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering, and Barrier Systems for Limiting Fluid Migration. These lectures cover the entire day which was good as there was so much to learn from the renowned experts in the various fields.

Professor Delwyn Fredlund presented the Jennings Lecture on 'Determination of Unsaturated Soil Property Functions for Engineering Practice. The Bright Spark lecture was delivered by Dr. Charles MacRoberts on 'Challenge to Judgement'. This was followed by the Corporate Associates Presidential Group (CAPG) Workshop, which highlighted Innovations in Engineering Practice. Presentations were made by several Corporate Associates of ISSMGE present at the conference.

Various technical sessions were held in parallel sessions. Speakers presented their technical papers in 8 minutes followed by 2 minutes of questions and answers. Since all technical papers had been reviewed by a scientific committee from various geotechnical fields, the quality of the papers was excellent.

An elegant gala dinner was organized to climax the conference which showcased rich cultural music and dance by a Zulu dance troupe.



With Prof. Neil Taylor (ISSMGE, UK)



With some young members at the exhibition stands

*Felix Jojo Ayeh
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana*

ISSMGE Foundation reports (Con't)

The 7th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference and the 17th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering were organised and hosted by the south Africa Geotechnical society under the auspices of ISSMGE. The conferences were held in Century City Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. The African Young geotechnical engineers conference took place on 6th of October 2019 while the African Regional conference on soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering was held on the 7th to 9th of October 2019. These two conferences are the most important in Africa for geotechnical engineers. The African Young geotechnical engineering conference started on Saturday 5th October with a joyous party in a bus from 6pm to 10pm. On the 6th October, young geotechnical engineers were given the international platform to present their researches and case studies. Before the presentations, DR. Graham Howell motivated us through sharing with us his life experience (various projects he has handled and the challenges involved). I had the opportunity to present my research titled “A laboratory study on swell reduction of expansive soil treated with lime”.

The African Regional Conference on soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering started with an open declaration by Prof. Denis Kalumba (chairman of the organising committee), opening address by Solly Phalannndwa, welcome address from ISSMGE president (prof Charles Ng), congratulatory address from IGs president (Prof Chungsik Yoo), the Chairman of the conference. The three-day conference comprised of courses, keynote, Jennings and Mercer lectures in the morning, technical and parallel sessions. Introduction of coffee breaks made it easier to interact with presenters for better understanding.

After all the joyous moments the conference was ended on the 9th of October 2019. The closing ceremony came to an end with Tunisia mentioned as the country to host the next African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. I believe that the knowledge I have acquired from this conference will lead me to pursue my geotechnical carrier better.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the ISSMGE foundation for their support which made it possible to participate in this most prestigious geotechnical conference.



With Prof Ampadu and Jojo from Ghana



With Timothy Bijugo of Tech Lab, Uganda

Brobbey Daniel Ackah
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Tecchnology/ Admir Technologies, Ghana

ISSMGE Foundation reports (Con't)

The 27th European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference was held in Bodrum, Mugla, Turkey and I had the chance to get an ISSMGE grant to attend it. I had submitted oral presentation on the results of my laboratory tests. The conference was attended by more than 50 scientists and specialists from different countries of Europe.

Each of them has already achieved a lot in its direction, has supported its assumptions with analytical calculations or grids in software complexes.

It was very interesting to hear the reports of leading professors:

- Prof. Pierre Delage, topic: The mechanical properties of Martian soils: insights from InSight.
- Dr. Nejan Huvaj, topic: Stability of natural and man-made slopes: from FS to RFEM and MPM.
- Dr. Andrea Dominijanni, topic: Chemico-osmotic effects in bentonite-based barriers for containment applications.
- Prof. İlknur Bozbey Topic: Effects of soil pulverization level on lime stabilized clays: Implications on pavement design and performance.

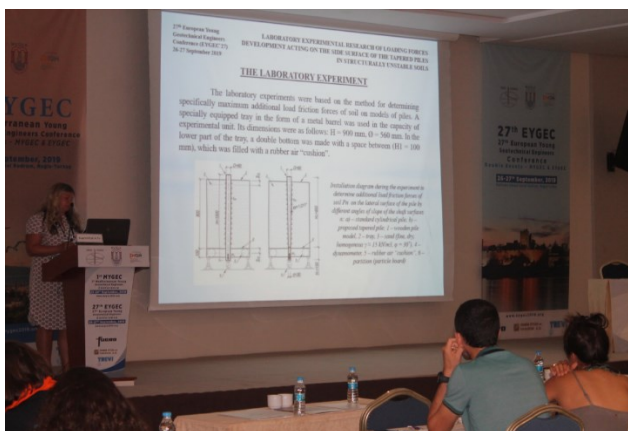
The coffee and lunch breaks between the sessions provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the presentations and exchange ideas with colleagues.

Fresh sea air and beautiful landscapes helped to get distracted in the evening after a long day spent in the conference hall behind the discussion of a large number of reports of young scientists from all over Europe.

Each evening ended with an interesting joint entertainment in which each person could express himself and present his country.

During the conference, I could widen my horizon in various fields of geotechnical engineering as a PhD student. I got an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to many professors, researchers and engineers from different countries and many other potential research collaborators as well.

I would like to thank ISSMGE in general and ISSMGE Foundation for the opportunity to participate in such high-level conferences and for their award.



During my presentation



Group photo of the attendees

*Kupreichyk Anna
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